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AUTHORITY

QUASAR

48
COSMIC
PAGES



WENDELL VAUGHN . . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION. HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . QUASAR!

MOMENTS AGO, THE COSMIC AVENGER RETURNED TO THE STRANGER'S LABORATORY-WORLD, HIS MISSION TO RESCUE THE PLANET'S MASTER SCIENTIST ACCOMPLISHED.

HE HAD INFORMED THE STRANGER THAT AN OLD ENEMY OF HIS WAS WAITING FOR HIM THERE, BUT NEITHER OF THEM WAS PREPARED FOR THE SUDDENNESS AND SAVAGERY OF THE OVER-MIND'S BLISTERING MENTAL ATTACK.

AIEEEEEERRRGK!

STRANGER--?

HE'S LITERALLY WITHERING UNDER THE ASSAULT-- SHRINKING TO HUMAN STATURE!

MARK GRUENWALD • MIKE MANLEY • D. PANOSIAN & K. WILLIAMS • JANICE CHIANG
STORY PENCILS INKS LETTERS
BECTON & ROSAS • LEN KAMINSKY • HOWARD MACKIE • TOM O'FALCO
COLORS MANAGING ED REGULAR ED OVERMIND ED

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YOU HAVE DONE WELL, QUASAR OF EARTH. YOU HAVE DELIVERED MY ANCIENT ENEMY TO ME.

YEAH, RIGHT INTO AN AMBUSH. GUESS YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF ABOVE SUCH CONCEPTS AS FAIR PLAY, HUH?

AFTER WHAT THE STRANGER DID TO ME LAST TIME, I HAVE NO COMPUNCTIONS ABOUT USING ANY AND ALL MEANS TO SUBDUCE HIM AVAILABLE TO ME. I MUST ADMIT I DID NOT EXPECT HIM TO FALL PREY TO ME QUITE THIS EASILY, HOWEVER.

GERM

"CONNIVING WORM! YOU THINK I AM UNCOGNIZANT OF THE PURPOSE OF YOUR QUESTION? YOUR MIND UNCONTROLLABLE AS IT MAY BE, IS OPEN FOR MY CASUAL INSPECTION."

"I WILL HUMOR YOUR REQUEST HOWEVER, SO I MIGHT HAVE AN INFORMED WITNESS TO THE MOMENTOUS PROCEEDINGS OF THIS DAY."

"AND WHEN WE RAN OUT OF WORTHY CHALLENGES, WE TURNED OUR BOUNDLESS AGGRESSIONS UPON OUR OWN KIND, STAGING TOURNAMENTS OF STRENGTH AND CARNAGE."

"THEN ONE DAY SOON AFTER, WE ENCOUNTERED A FOE WHOSE MIGHT RIVALLED OUR OWN -- THE STERNALS OF THE WORLD WE CALLED GIGANTUS."

"FOR MILLENNIA, WE WAGED WAR WITH THE GIGANTIAN, HEAVILY COMMITTING MANPOWER AND RESOURCES TO THE TASK. YET THEY MANAGED TO RESIST US."

"MY PEOPLE WERE THE STERNALS OF THE WORLD WE CALLED EYUNG. WE WERE A BELLICOSE PEOPLE, DEVOTING OUR VAST LIFESPANS TO MASTERING THE ARTS OF WAR."

"STARING AT IMPENDING OBLIVION, EYUNGIAN SCIENTISTS DECIDED TO INVEST OUR ENTIRE POPULACE'S CONSCIOUSNESSES IN A SINGLE BODY THAT MIGHT SURVIVE OUR EMPIRE'S DEMISE."

"ACROSS THE GALAXY WE SPREAD, EXTERMINATING EVERY RACE WE COULD NOT ENSLAVE. WE CARVED AN EMPIRE ACROSS THE STARS GREATER BY FAR THAN THOSE OF THE KROG OR THE SHI'AR TODAY..."

"I BECAME THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS, THE MASTER COMBATANT OF THE ENTIRE EYUNGIAN EMPIRE."

"THE BODY WAS MINE. BECAME THE LIVING RECEPTACLE OF THE MINDPOWER OF MY ENTIRE RACE."

DOWN, YES, BUT I DOUBT A GUY WITH THE STRANGER'S POWER IS OUT. I'VE GOT TO DISTRACT THE OVER-MIND, GIVE THE STRANGER TIME TO RECOVER.

SO YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHY YOU HATE THIS GUY SO MUCH?

THE STRANGER MUST HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED FROM HIS TRAVELS, AND LET HIS MENTAL GUARD DOWN.

OF AN IDEA

"FINALLY, WE DISPATCHED ANTIMATTER REACTION BOMBS CAPABLE OF ANNIHILATING ANYTHING. WE DESTROYED GIGANTUS, BUT NOT BEFORE THE GIGANTIANS LAUNCHED THEIR OWN ANTIMATTER BOMBS AT US!"

"THROUGH TREASON, THE STRANGER MANAGED TO TEMPORARILY SHUNT ME TO ANOTHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE.



"BUT FROM THERE I TRAVELED TO AN EARTH TANGENTIAL TO YOUR OWN AND VANQUISHED THAT WORLD'S PROTECTORS, THE SQUADRON SUPREME..."

SOMETHING MADDASHED TO ME AFTER THAT, THE NATURE OF WHICH I AM STILL UNCERTAIN. SOMEHOW THE BILLION MINDS THAT MADE UP MY CONSCIOUSNESS WERE STUNNED AND SUPPLANTED BY THE MINDS OF SIX EARTHLY MENTALISTS.



"THEY MANAGED TO CATAPULT ME INTO THE INTERSTELLAR VOID WERE MOMENTS BEFORE THE GLORY THAT WAS EYUNGA PROVED NOT TO BE ETERNAL AFTER ALL."



"FOR UNTOLD EPOCHS I LAY IN INCUBATION, AWAITING THE INSTANT ALL THE MINDS IN MY GROUP-CONSCIOUSNESS COULD LEARN TO THINK AND ACT IN UNISON..."

"THAT DAY INEXORABLY ARRIVED, AND I SOJOURNED TO YOUR HOMEWORLD, WHERE I ENSLAVED THE FIRST OF EARTH'S CHAMPIONS TO TRY TO OPPOSE ME, THE FANTASTIC FOUR."



"MY CONQUEST OF YOUR SPHERE WOULD HAVE BEEN ASSURED HAD I NOT BEEN VISITED BY THE STRANGER--"



"-- WHO CLAIMED TO BE THE SUM TOTAL OF THE GIGANTIANS EVEN AS I WAS OF THE EYUNGIAN."

BUT WHEN THE SQUADRON VISITED YOUR PLANET SCANT EARTH-DAYS AGO,* MY SLUMBERING CONSCIOUSNESS IMMEDIATELY PERCEIVED THEIR EXTRADIMENSIONAL BRAIN PATTERNS.

INSTANTLY MY **TRUE CONSCIOUSNESS** CAME TO THE FORE, CONSUMING THE PSYCHES OF THE SIX MENTALISTS EVEN AS AN OCEAN ABSORBS DROPLETS OF RAIN.

TO REWARD THE SQUADRON FOR AWAKENING ME, I MENTALLY SUBJUGATED THEM ONCE MORE, AND COMMANDED THEM TO ACCOMPANY ME HERE TO THE STRANGER'S WORLD.

HERE I'VE USED MY MATCHLESS POWER TO DESTROY THE FRUITS OF MY ENEMY'S LABORS, AND NOW MY ENEMY'S MIND ITSELF.

*ISSUE #13.

NOT DESTROYED... BOASTFUL ONE, JUST FATIGUED.

AH, STRANGER... YOU AWAKEN AT LAST! GOOD. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAVOR A VICTORY SO EASY TO ACHIEVE.

YOU WILL HAVE ACHIEVED NAUGHT, OVER-MIND. I WILL VANQUISH YOU EVEN AS I DID IN TIMES PAST!

DO YOUR **UTMOST**, GIGANTIAN-- YOU WILL NOT TAKE ME UNAWARES AS YOU DID WHEN FIRST WE MET!

WHOA! NOT SURE IF THE STRANGER WAS FAKING IT OR IF HE REALLY DID NEED A BREATHER AFTER OUR COSMIC JAUNT, BUT OTHER THAN HIS DIMINISHED SIZE, HE LOOKS READY TO WHUP COSMIC BUTT NOW!

SO WHAT DO I DO--
HELP HIM? HE'S
DEFINITELY THE
LESSER OF THE
TWO EVILS...

... BUT THE CRUEL AND UNUSUAL
EXPERIMENTS HE WAS PERFORMING
ON THE SENTIENT BEINGS HE
HAD LOCKED UP ON HIS LABWORLD
WOULD DEFINITELY EARN HIM THE
WRATH OF SENTIENT RIGHTS
ACTIVISTS THROUGHOUT
THE GALAXY!

... NAMELY:
FINDING
MY TRAVELING
COMPANIONS,
MAKKARI
AND
HYPERION--

GUESS
I'LL JUST
LEAVE THE TWO
TO THEIR POWER
STRUGGLE,
AND GO
ABOUT MY OWN
BUSINESS.

--AND HYPE'S
FRIENDS, THE
SQUADRON SU--

MAN!
GUESS I WON'T
HAVE TO FIND
THE SQUADRON--
THEY'VE FOUND
ME!

BUT WHO
THE HECK
ARE ALL
THOSE
OTHER
GUYS?





AXI-TUN--
ATTACK!



-- I'LL JUST TURN
UP THE JUICE AND
MELT THEM ALL
INTO SLAG!

OOH, I LOVE
COOPERATION.

UH-OH, I GLOAT TOO SOON,
WHILE MY ATTENTION WAS ON
MY FOUR ATTACKERS, I BARELY
NOTICED THAT DOCTOR SPECTRUM
ERECTED AN ENERGY-SPHERE
AROUND THE FUNBOY FOUR
AND MYSELF!



THEY MAY BE WEAPONLESS, BUT THEY'RE STILL OUT FOR MY BLOOD!



ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS -- END OF THE LINE. AND THERE ACROSS THE PLAZA AS PROMISED IS THE GUY RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR INHUMAN IMPRISONMENT HERE -- THE STRANGER!



HE SHALL PAY FOR THE VIVISECTION OF MY BRETHREN! SO SWEARS THE MONITOR!

GET IN LINE, GIANT! WE'RE GOING TO GET FIRST CRACK AT HIM!

I'M GOING TO GET
REINFORCEMENTS!

GOT YOU!

BE BACK IN
A BIT, POWER
PRINCESS!

SHALL WE
ATTACK HIM,
LORD
OVER-MIND?

BY ALL
MEANS!

FZZAK
ZOOSH

VVVVT
WRRRI

LABORATORY
SUBJECTS--
REVOLTING!

BEGONE!
I'LL DEAL
WITH YOU LATER!



LOOK!

WHOOIE! I HAVEN'T SEEN SUCH A GRAB BAG OF MONSTROIDS SINCE THE DEVIANTS' LAST WEEBIE ROAST!

GREETINGS, OUT-OF-THIS-WORDLINGS! MAAKARI'S THE NAME! I JUST GOT HERE! WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

GRAAAH!



SOMETHING MOVING --!

YOU ARE NOT UNDER THE MASTER'S CONTROL -- YOU MUST BE SUBDUED!

IT'S THE WHIZZER DUDE FROM THE EX-SQUADRON! AND HE DOESN'T LOOK TOO HAPPY TO SEE ME!



SORRY, WHIZ, THIS DUDE'S NOT THE SUBDUED KIND!



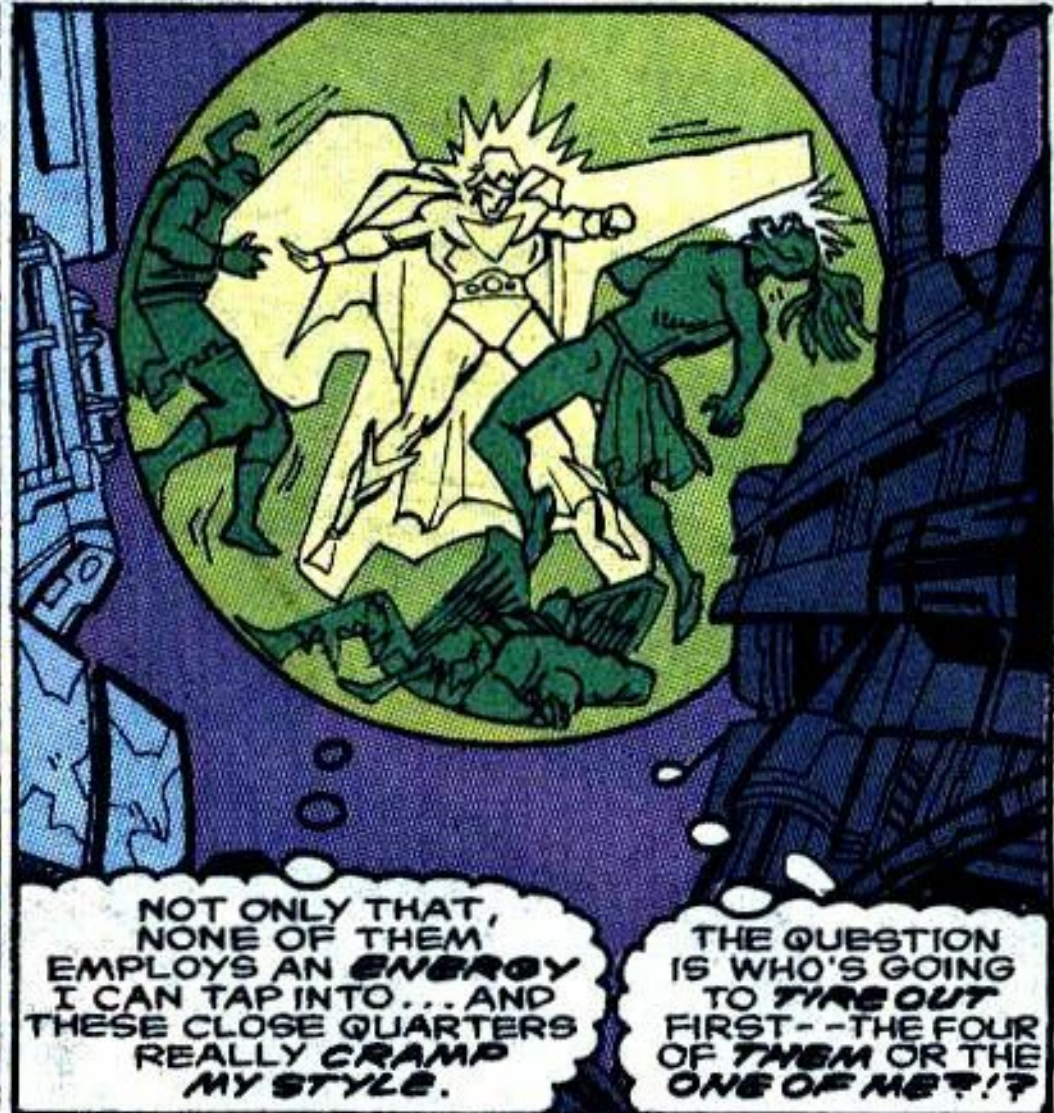
WHAT WAS THAT?

VZZZZHHH

VROOOSH

MEANWHILE,
OVERHEAD...

THESE FOUR WARRIORS ARE
MADE OF PRETTY *STERN STUFF*.
I KNOCK 'EM DOWN AND THEY
JUST KEEP ON GETTING
UP AGAIN--!



NOT ONLY THAT,
NONE OF THEM
EMPLOYS AN *ENERGY*
I CAN TAP INTO... AND
THESE CLOSE QUARTERS
REALLY *CRAMP*
MY STYLE.

THE QUESTION
IS WHO'S GOING
TO *FIRE OUT*
FIRST--THE FOUR
OF *THEM* OR THE
ONE OF *ME*?!

FORTY
MILES
AWAY...

THAT *HUGE ARROW*
FLOATING IN THE SKY--

--COULD BE AN
ENERGY-OBJECT
CREATED BY FELLOW
EX-SQUADRONER,
DR. SPECTRUM!

IT'S POINTING
AT THAT
CITADEL! WON'T
TAKE LONG TO
CHECK OUT!



LOOK!
UP IN
THE SKY!
IT'S A--

IT'S
HYPERION!

HE'S
MINE.



ZARDA!
THANK
ARGON I'VE
FOUND
YOU--!

WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHO ABDUCTED
YOU HERE? WHERE
ARE THE
OTHERS?

YOU ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS.

WHAT'S **WRONG**, WITH HER? SHE'S MY **GIRLFRIEND**, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! SHE MUST BE UNDER **MIND-CONTROL**!

COULD THAT MEAN OUR OLD ENEMY THE **OVER-MIND** IS HERE UP TO HIS **OLD TRICKS**?

ZARDA, TELL ME WH-**OUFF**!

LOOK, MY LOVE, I KNOW I'M **PRACTICALLY INVULNERABLE--**

-- BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M GOING TO LET SOMEBODY WITH **YOUR STRENGTH** USE ME FOR A **PUNCHING BAG**!

NOW HOW ABOUT TELLING ME -- **OOON!**

THIS IS BEGINNING TO GET ME **ANGRY!**

NEARBY...



TWO OF 'EM DOWN FOR THE COUNT-- TWO TO GO!

I KNOW SOMETHING I'VE NEVER TRIED BEFORE--
NUNCHAKUS!



KRAK



WEEAAAAAH!

WOW! IF ONLY **BRUCE LEE** HAD LIVED TO SEE THIS! I'M DEFINITELY ADDING **THESE BABIES** TO MY STANDARD REPERTOIRE OF TRICKS!

NOW LET'S SEE HOW WELL SPECTRUM BUILT THIS **ENERGY-BUBBLE**. I'LL JUST BUTT MY TWO STICKS TOGETHER, WILL THEM TO **EXPAND--**



-- AND REALLY **POUR ON THE JUICE--**

POP



YESSS!



DON'T KNOW IF THIS PROVES MY ENERGY'S **STRONGER** THAN SPEC'S OR IF THE MIND CONTROL'S JUST AFFECTING HIS **CONCENTRATION**.

DOESN'T MATTER. RIGHT NOW I WANT TO SEE ABOUT GETTING THESE GUYS **FREE** FROM THE OVER-MIND'S **DOMINATION!**

WOW! THE STRANGER
AND OVER-MIND DON'T LOOK
LIKE THEY'VE BUDGED
AN *INCH* SINCE I
LEFT THEM!

THAT'S THE
PROBLEM WITH
SUPER-COSMIC GUYS.
THEY DO SO MUCH OF THEIR
FIGHTING WITH *PYROTECHNICS*,
THAT IT'S SOMETIMES
HARD TO TELL YOU'RE
ACTUALLY WATCHING
A *FIGHT*!

I CAN ONLY THINK OF
ONE WAY TO GET THE *SIG O*
TO DROP HIS MIND-CONTROL. BUT
IT PUTS THE *STRANGER* AT
GREAT *RISK*--!

NO OTHER
OPTION.

HEY, OVER-MIND!
I'LL BET IF YOU
DROPPED
YOUR MENTAL
DOMINATION OVER
THE *SQUADRON*
YOU'D HAVE MORE
MIND-POWER
THROW AT THE
STRANGER!

HMMH!

WHOSE SIDE
ARE YOU *ON*,
QUASAR?

WHICH
ONE OF
YOU IS THE
GOOD
GUY?

I COULD
USE EVERY
LAST
ENGRAM OF
MENTAL
POWER TO
MY STRUGGLE
HERE...

NNNNNNYAAA!

I WILL
WITHDRAW
MY CONTROL
OVER ALL
OTHERS!

**SIMULTANEOUSLY,
ABOVE...**

OKAY,
ZARDA DEAR.
I'VE GOT YOU
PINNED SO
YOU CAN'T
STRIKE ME
ANYMORE.

NOW, ANSWER ME:
WHO'S MAKING YOU
ACT LIKE THIS--THE
OVER-MIND?!

OH,
HYPERION...!

HMH? WHAT--
MMMM...

HER KISS...
I CAN TELL SHE
MEANS IT!

**SIMULTANEOUSLY,
AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF
THE CITADEL...**

GOTTA ADMIT THE WHIZ
IS DOING A PRETTY
RIGHT-ON JOB OF
KEEPING UP WITH ME!

BUMMER THAT WITH
ALL THESE TWISTS
AND TURNS, IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE TO GET
UP ANYWHERE NEAR
MY TOP SPEED!

WHOA! WHAT HAPPENED?
DID I LOSE HIM OR DID
HE GIVE UP?

BETTER
SCORE
IT OUT!

SIMULTANEOUSLY, EVERYWHERE...

MY... MY HEAD--
THE OVER-MIND'S
OUT OF IT!

MINE TOO,
ARCANNA!

AND FINALLY, SIMULTANEOUSLY, NINETY
MILES OUTSIDE THE CITADEL...

JUST HOLD
ON A FEW MORE
MINUTES, BOYS,
AND WE'LL BE
THERE, I
PROMISE!

IF-THIS-
IS-A-DECEPTION-
TEN-FOR-WILL-
DISMANTLE-YOU-
ORGANIC-
ONE!

YOU WANT TO
GET OUT AND WALK,
METALMAN-- JUST
SAY THE--

--WORD.

MY MIND!
IT'S MINE
AGAIN!

SORRY, GUYS. THIS BUS
HAS JUST GONE OUT
OF SERVICE!

AIEEE!

I AM KILLING YOU, STRANGER, ONE BRAINCELL AT A TIME! DO YOU FEEL THEM EXPLODING IN YOUR HEAD LIKE -- WHAT IS THAT EARTHLY FOODSTUFF -- POPCORN?!



OH, MAN -- THE STRANGER LOOKS IN A BAD WAY, AND I PROBABLY GAVE OVER-MIND THE EDGE TO WIN. I'VE GOT TO -- WAIT!

CAN YOU COMPREHEND HOW MUCH I AM SAVORING THIS, MY ANCIENT ENEMY? OR HAVE I ALREADY RAVAGED YOUR BRAIN'S REASONING FACILITIES?



SOMEONE DIVING TOWARD ME!



HEY, PAL -- WHAT'S YOUR BEEF WITH ME?

I SENSE YOU MAY HAVE SUFFICIENT POWER TO SHATTER THE STARSTUFF BANDS WHICH IMPRISON ME IN THIS HUMANOID BODY!

YOU MUST DO SO! YOU MUST UNBIND MY CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THIS FINITE FORM.

SAYS YOU, FELLA!



AHHHGK!

AMBUSHED -- BY WHOM -- ?!?

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE A SHIP, DON'T YOU? YOU HAVE A WAY OFF THIS GOD-FORSAKEN WORLD! YOU MUST TAKE ME TO IT! I MUST GET BACK HOME!

I'LL TRY AERIAL JUTITSU -- BREAK HER HOLD!



FRZAAK

OH! MY
WING---!
WHAT---

YOU SHALL
ALL PAY FOR
MY IMPRISONMENT
HERE! I WILL
VANQUISH
YOU ALL!

RELEASE
ME!
RELEASE
ME!



SOME ALIEN'S
SHOOTING HEAT
OUT OF ONE ARM,
COLD OUT THE
OTHER, AND A
STRAY BLAST
JUST HIT
LADY LARK!

THAT'S MY
FRIEND,
YOU FIEND!



TO SOMEONE
MOVING
AS FAST
AS ME--

--YOU
STAND
LIKE A
STATUE!

I'M GOING
TO GO HELP
OUT LARK!

I CAN DUCK BENEATH
YOUR BLASTS AND SHOWER
A HUNDRED BLOWS UPON
YOU BEFORE YOU HAVE
TIME TO REACT TO THE
FIRST ONE!



LOOKS LIKE SOME
OF OUR TEAMMATES
HAVE GOTTEN INTO
SOME BRAWLS!

WATCH OUT
FOR THAT
FLYING
DWARF!

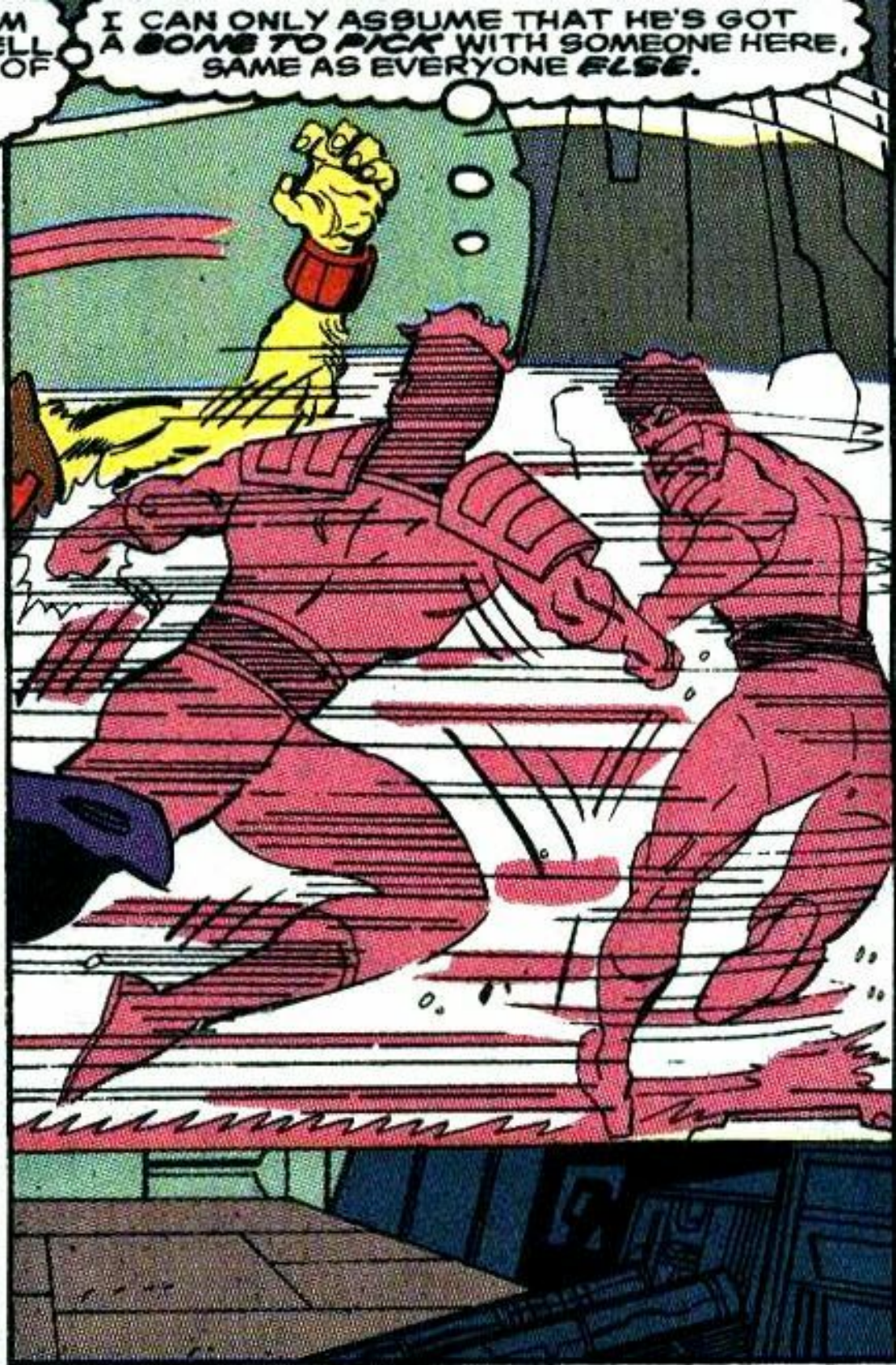
WHAT
FLYING---



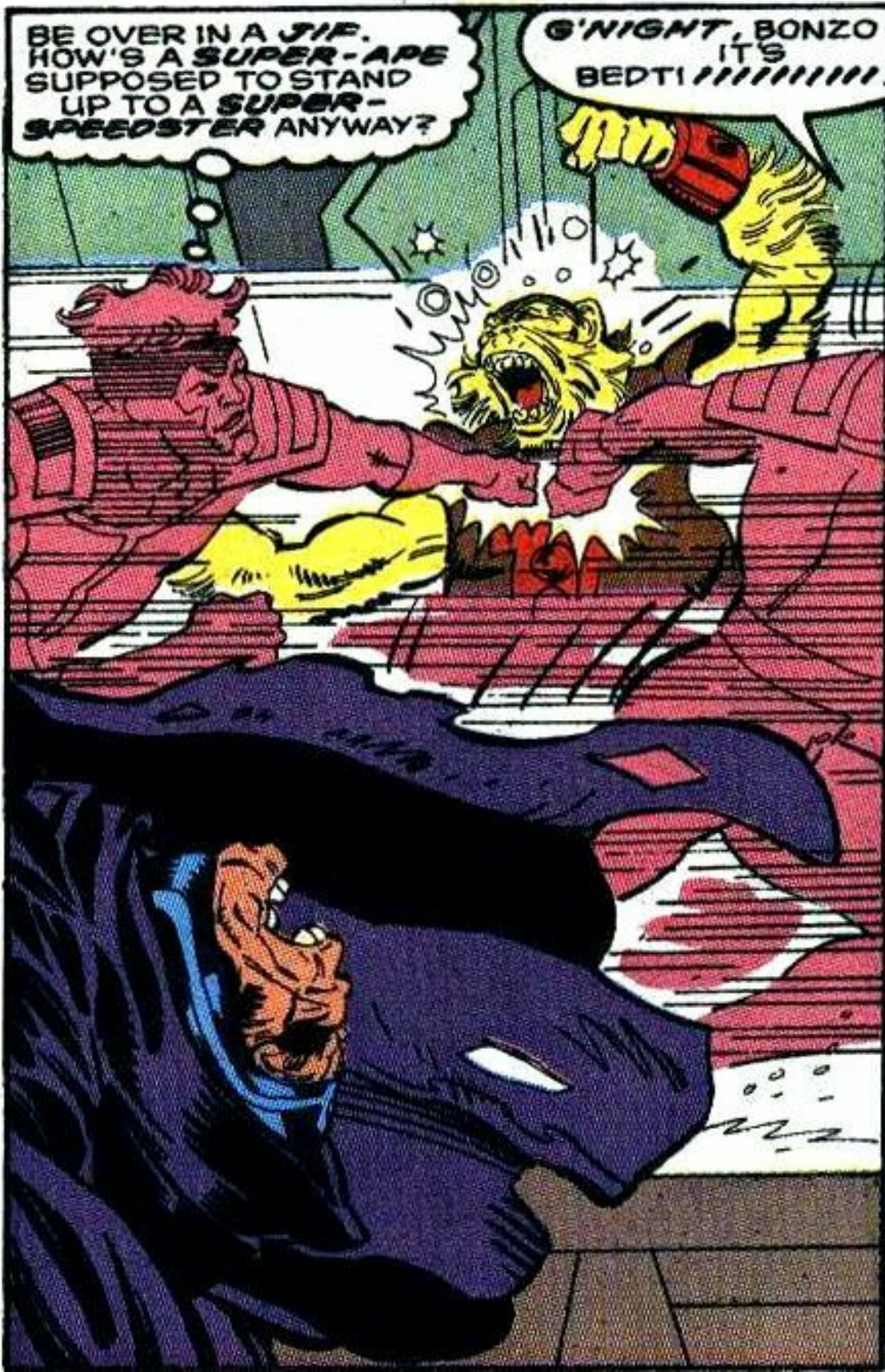


WHOOAAA--!
WHERE'D THAT
SUDDEN WIND
COME FROM?

OH, WELL, SINCE I'M
HERE, I MAY AS WELL
TAKE THE FIGHT OUT OF
THIS **GOLDEN**
GORILLA-OID!

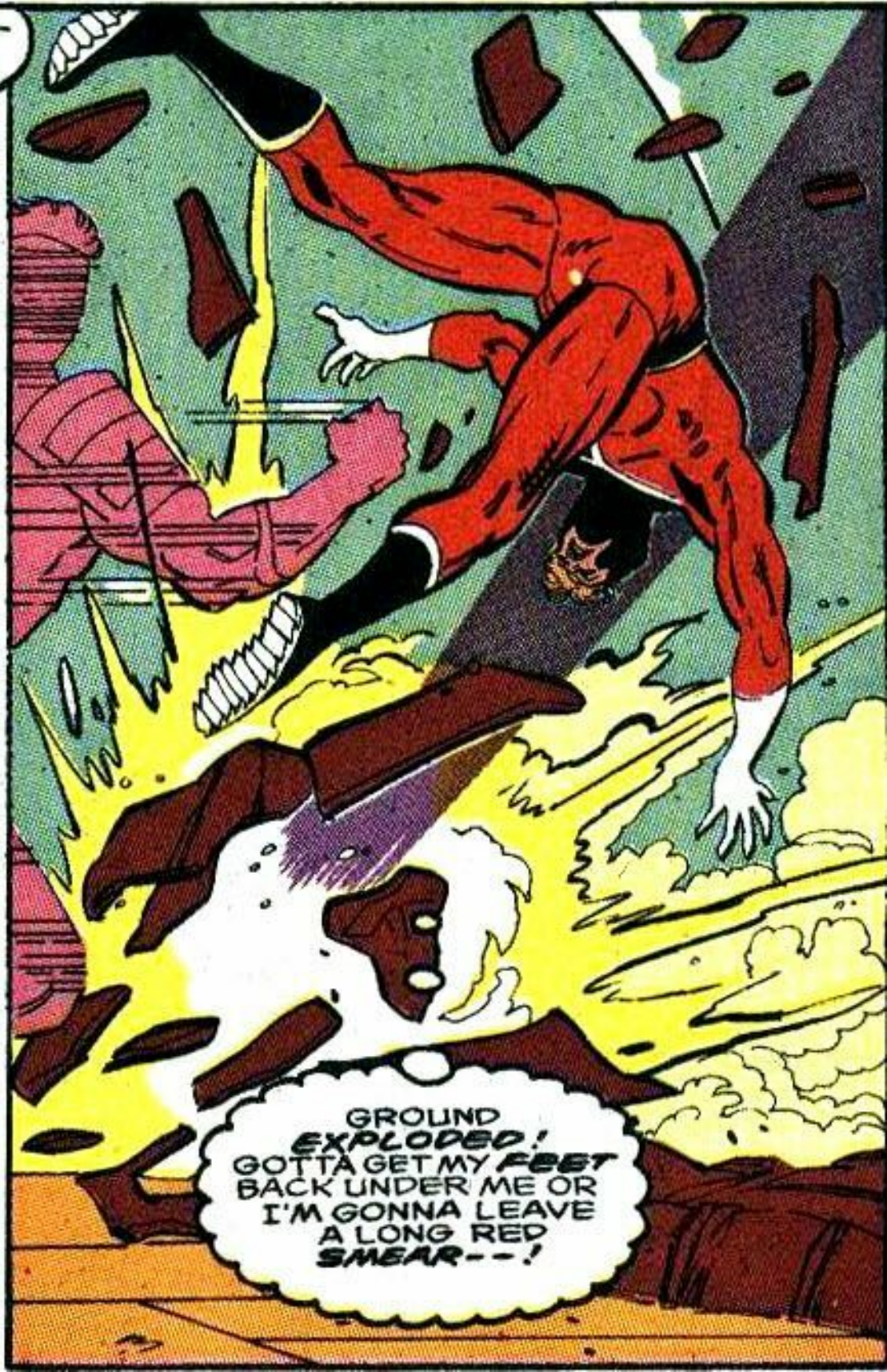


I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT HE'S GOT
A **BONE TO PICK** WITH SOMEONE HERE,
SAME AS EVERYONE **ELSE**.



BE OVER IN A **JIF**.
HOW'S A **SUPER-APE**
SUPPOSED TO STAND
UP TO A **SUPER-**
SPEEDSTER ANYWAY?

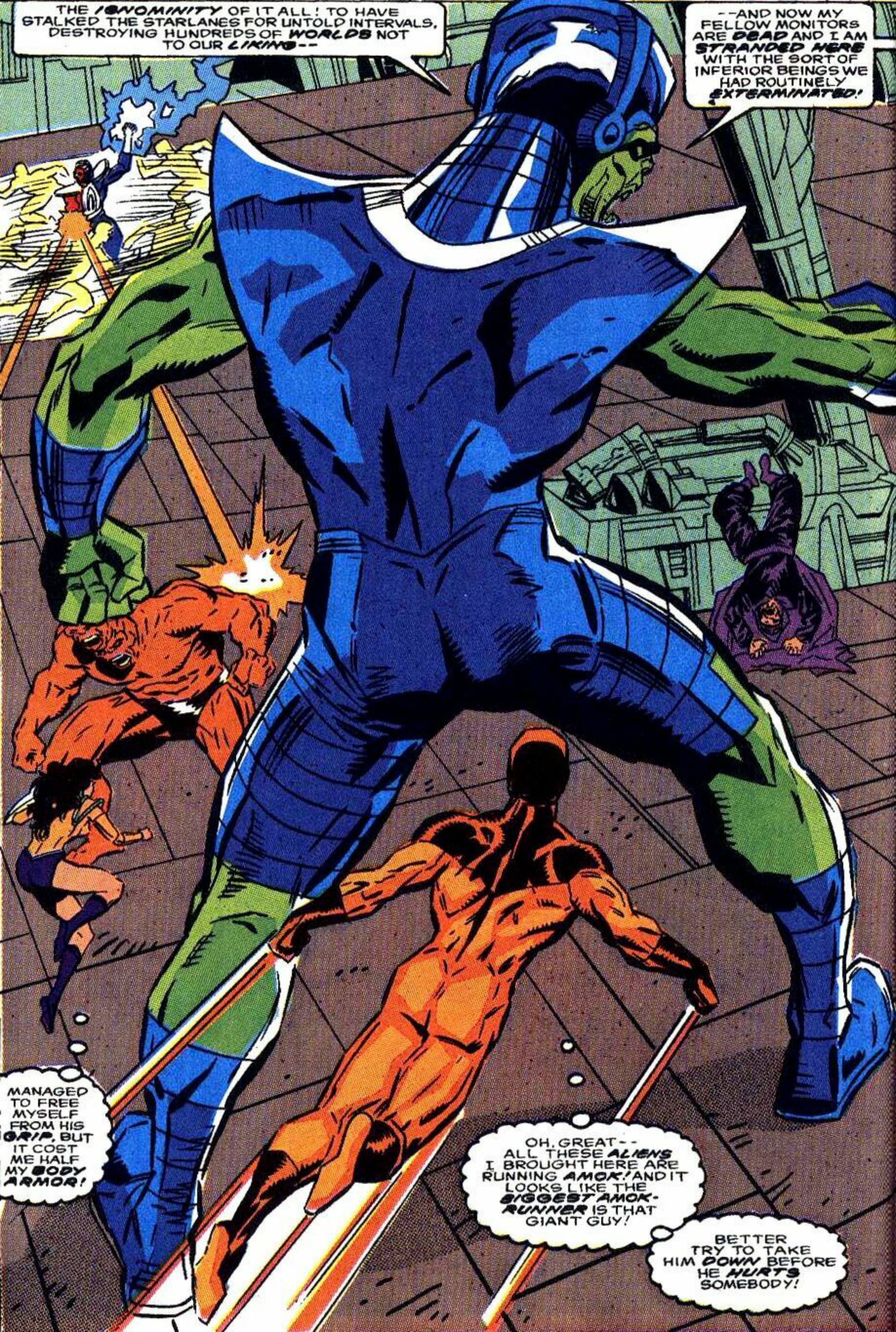
G'NIGHT, BONZO--
IT'S
BEDTIME!!!!!!



GROUND
EXPLODED!
GOTTA GET MY **FEET**
BACK UNDER ME OR
I'M GONNA LEAVE
A LONG **RED**
SMEAR--!

THE *ISOMINITY* OF IT ALL! TO HAVE STALKED THE STARLANES FOR UNTOLD INTERVALS, DESTROYING HUNDREDS OF *WORLDS* NOT TO OUR *LIKING*--

--AND NOW MY FELLOW MONITORS ARE *DEAD* AND I AM *STRANDED HERE* WITH THE SORT OF INFERIOR BEINGS WE HAD ROUTINELY *EXTERMINATED!*



MANAGED TO FREE MYSELF FROM HIS GRIP, BUT IT COST ME HALF MY *BODY ARMOR!*

OH, GREAT-- ALL THESE *ALIENS* I BROUGHT HERE ARE RUNNING *AMOK!* AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE *BIGGEST AMOK-RUNNER* IS THAT GIANT GUY!

BETTER TRY TO TAKE HIM *DOWN* BEFORE HE *HURTS* SOMEBODY!

BY THE MAJESTY THAT WAS **MARVAN**, ALL OF YOU WILL KNOW THE **WRATH** OF THE **LAST MONITOR**! AND YOU SHALL TAKE THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU TO **OBLIVION'S BOSOM**!

MANAGED TO BREAK FREE OF MADAME DRAGONFLY WITH MY **SONIC SONG-CRY**, BUT HOW AM I GOING TO GET OUT OF THE WAY OF THAT **HEAT-BLAST** WITH ONE **WING** STILL ON THE **FRITZ**?

NODDLES! I'M STILL IN ONE PIECE-- UNLESS YOU'RE COUNTING THE SEAT OF MY PANTS!

GOOD GODDESS! THAT CREATURE'S ENERGIES TEAR THE VERY **BIO-SPHERE** ASUNDER! IF HE'S THAT POWERFUL, HOW POWERFUL MUST THE **STRANGER** BE TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO **IMPRISON HIM**?!

HEY, BULLY-BOY, I WANT YOU TO KEEP YOUR **HAND-BLASTS** TO YOURSELF, YOU HEAR?

IF I HAVEN'T MADE THESE MITTS **STRONG** ENOUGH, HE'S GONNA **INCINERATE** ME!

WHO DARES--?

FIND AT THE CENTER OF THE QUADRANGLE...



"MANY GALACTIC REVOLUTIONS AGO..."

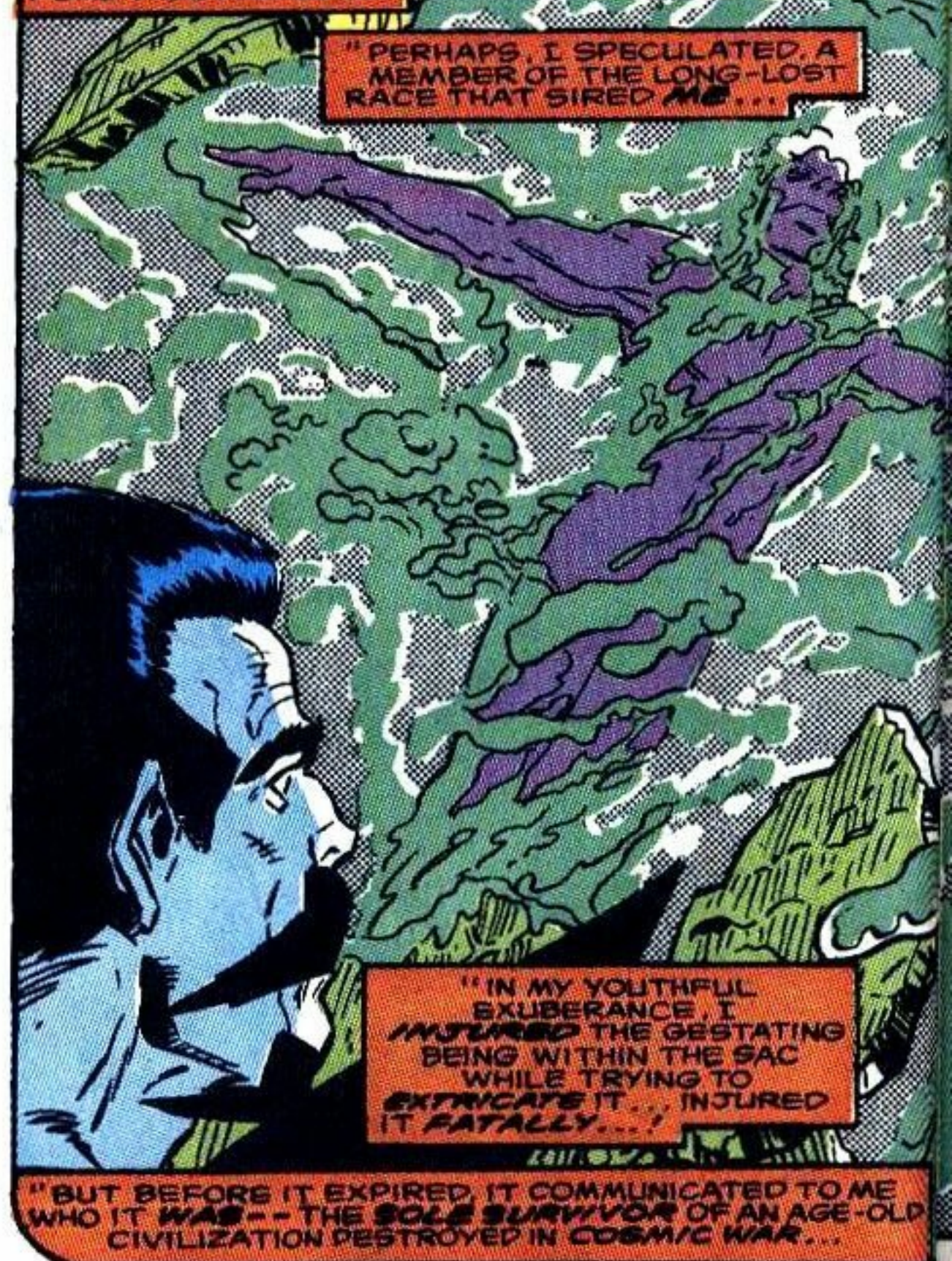
"... WHEN I FIRST BEGAN COLLECTING SPECIMENS FOR MY EXPERIMENTS REGARDING THE NATURE OF LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE..."



"I HAPPENED UPON AN UNUSUAL ORGANIC SAC FLOATING IN INTERSTELLAR SPACE..."

"INSIDE, I SENSED, WAS A GESTATING BEING FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN ANY I HAD HERETOFORE DISCOVERED..."

"PERHAPS, I SPECULATED, A MEMBER OF THE LONG-LOST RACE THAT Sired ME..."



"IN MY YOUTHFUL EXUBERANCE, I INJURED THE GESTATING BEING WITHIN THE SAC WHILE TRYING TO EXTRICATE IT... INJURED IT FATAALLY..."

"BUT BEFORE IT EXPIRED, IT COMMUNICATED TO ME WHO IT WAS-- THE SOLE SURVIVOR OF AN AGE-OLD CIVILIZATION DESTROYED IN COSMIC WAR..."



I AM *NOT* WHO YOU *THINK* I AM, OVER-MIND.
I AM *NOT* YOUR ANCESTRAL *ENEMY* --
THE EMBODIMENT OF THE LAST GENERATION OF
THE PLANET YOU CALL *GIGANTUS*...

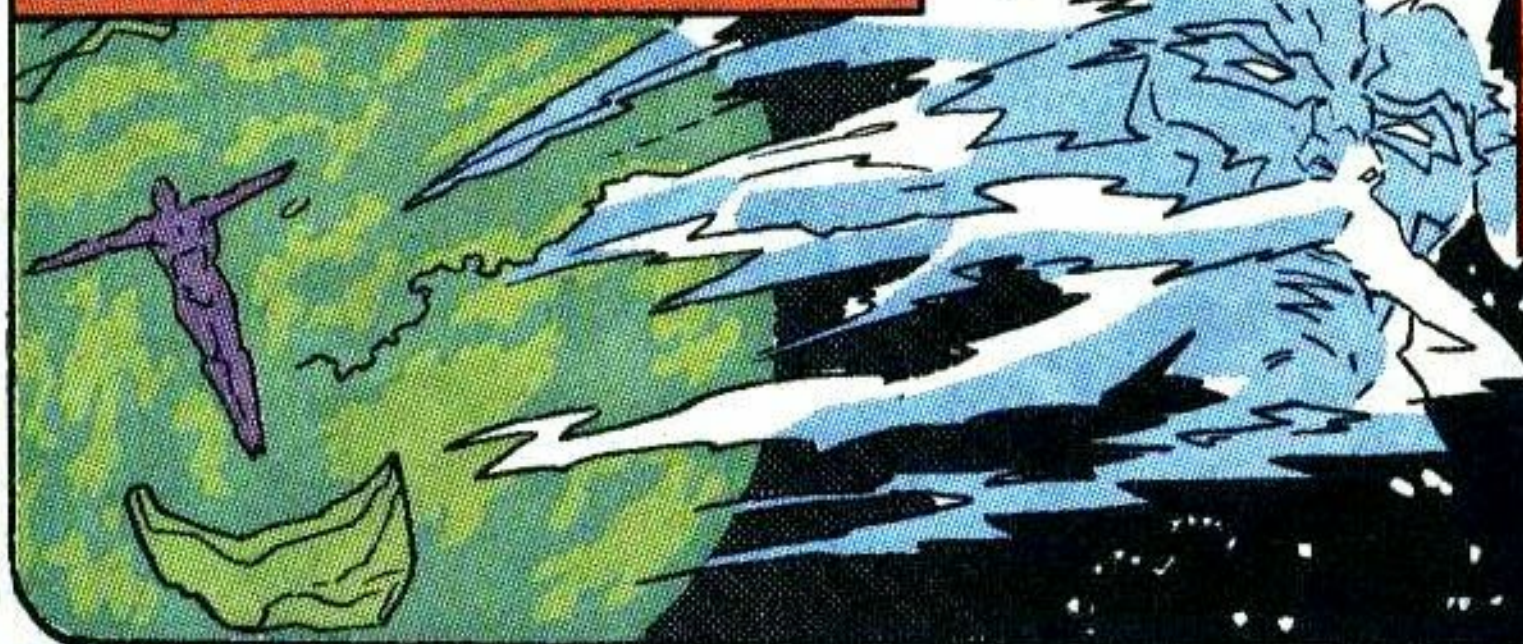
YOU LIE!
YOU'RE JUST
SAYING THAT
TO TRY TO
ESCAPE MY
WRATH!

WHAT? ARE
YOU TRYING TO
SAY SOMETHING
TO ME?



NO, IT'S
TRUE...

"I COULD NOT DETERMINE IF THE
BEING WAS INDEED ANY *ANCESTOR*
OF MINE... BUT I VOWED TO *CARRY*
ON ITS MISSION AND REMAIN VIGILANT
FOR THIS GREAT *MENACE* IT DESCRIBED...



"THAT MENACE,
OVER-MIND, WAS
YOU. WHEN I
LEARNED YOU
WERE RAVAGING
EARTH, ONE OF
MY FAVORITE
SOURCES FOR
LABORATORY
SPECIMENS, I
WENT THERE TO
STOP YOU --

-- AND FOR SIMPLICITY'S SAKE, REPRESENTED MYSELF AS
THE BEING I HAD *KILLED* -- YOUR ANCENT *ENEMY*,
THE HEIR OF *GIGANTUS*...

CAN WHAT YOU ARE
SAYING BE *TRUE*?

CAN -- AND *IS*...



BAH! IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE!
FOR HUMILIATING ME IN OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER,
I SHALL KILL YOU ANYWAY!

"HIS PURPOSE
WAS TO SEEK
OUT AND
THWART THE
LAST SURVIVOR
OF THE
BELLIGERENT
EYING, WHOM
HE BELIEVED
WOULD
ATTEMPT TO
ENSLAVE
THE GALAXY
WITH ITS VAST
COSMICAL
ABILITIES.



BUT THEN...

IT APPEARS HE IS
ENGAGED IN **BATTLE** AT
THIS JUNCTURE.

BUT IT IS
IMPERATIVE
WE TALK
TO HIM.

TO **INTERFERE**
IS TO DISOBEY
OUR **OATH**.

WE WILL
HAVE TO **WAIT**
UNTIL THIS
ALTERCATION
IS
CONCLUDED.

SOMETHING
LARGE-- MATERIALIZING
OVERHEAD! BUT I DARE
NOT TAKE MY ATTENTION
OFF THE **STRANGER** TO
SEE WHAT IT IS FOR SO
MUCH AS A
NANO-SECOND--

--LEST
THE **STRANGER**
SEIZE THE
ADVANTAGE!

MOMENTS BEFORE, NEARBY...

THIS GUY STARDUST IS A TENACIOUS SO-AND-SO--

-- SOON AS I BREAK FREE OF ONE WRESTLING HOLD, HE HAS ME IN ANOTHER!



THAT FIGHT WITH THE FOUR IN THE BUBBLE MUST'VE TAKEN MORE OUT OF ME THAN I THOUGHT...

UHHHHH...

LOOKS LIKE HYPERION AND SPECTRUM REALLY HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL WITH THAT GIANT!



I'D BETTER-- WHOAAAAA! MY QUANTUM-BANDS ARE PICKING UP SOMETHING-- SOMETHING BIG!



...OR IS SPACE-FACE HERE LEECHING OFF OF ME?

WELL, BUDDY-BOY, TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME!

AND NOBODY PLAYS IT BETTER THAN ME!



I'D LIKE TO GIVE YOU A HAND, HYPE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING HEAVY-DUTY GOING ON ACROSS THE PLAZA!

DON'T WORRY. NNNNNH.



I'VE GOT THIS SITUATION UNDER CONTROL!

WHUMP



HOLY COW - THIS PLACE IS **SWARMING** WITH... **WATCHERS!** AND HERE I WAS IMPRESSED WHEN I SAW **TWO** IN ONE PLACE.*

WHAT IN EON'S NAME IS **GOING ON** HERE? I KNOW THEY LIKE TO **WATCH**, BUT IS THE OVER-MIND/STRANGER FIGHT SUCH A **BIG DEAL** THAT IT TAKES **THIS** MANY WATCHERS TO WATCH IT?

EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN. THE NAME'S **QUASAR**. I WAS APPOINTED **PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE** BY AN EIGHT - BILLION YEAR OLD FELLOW NAMED **EON**.

*LAST ISSUE.



BECAUSE OF THAT, I THINK I'M ENTITLED TO SOME **ANSWERS**. SUCH AS... WHAT ARE ALL YOU GUYS **DOING** HERE?



I ASKED YOU A **QUESTION**, SIR. I WOULD LIKE SOME **RESPONSE**.

MY GREAT **STATION** IN LIFE DOESN'T SEEM TO MEAN **SQUAT** TO THESE UNBLINKING EGG-HEADS!

CURSE YOU, STRANGER!

THERE ARE
WATCHERS HERE!
I JUST SNATCHED
A GLANCE
AT THEM!

YOU SUMMONED
THEM, DIDN'T YOU?
DIDN'T YOU--?!

THE STRANGER IS
LOSING. IF HE IS
VANQUISHED BY
THIS MULTI-MINDED
ENTITY, HE WILL BE
UNABLE TO
HELP US.

BUT WE
CANNOT
INTERFERE
NO MATTER
WHAT.

BUT THE FATE OF OUR ENTIRE
RACE IS AT STAKE HERE. SURELY
THAT GRANTS US SOME
LATITUDE WITH OUR OATH.

IF YOU
DARE TO ACT,
OCAM, I WILL
COUNTERACT
YOU.

ALL ACTIONS
WILL BE
CENSURED.
LET EVENTS
TAKE THEIR
COURSE.

IF THERE
WERE JUST ONE
OF THOSE INFERNAL
SEERS HERE, I'D
THINK HE WAS
HERE TO OBSERVE
MY EPIC VICTORY
OVER YOU.

BUT THE FACT
THAT SO MANY
HAVE COME MEANS
SOMETHING--AND I
DON'T KNOW WHAT!
THEIR MINDS ARE
IMPENETRABLE
TO ME!

YOU SENT FOR
THEM, DIDN'T YOU,
STRANGER? THEY'RE
YOUR ALLIES COME
TO HELP YOU!
CHEATER!!!

MAY I APPRISE
THE OVER-MIND
OF THE ERRONEOUS
NATURE OF HIS
ASSUMPTION?

NO, EINU,
THAT WOULD
CONSTITUTE AN
INFRACTION OF
THE OATH!

ONE WATCHER, TWO
PERHAPS EVEN THREE
I COULD OVERPOWER!
BUT NOT TWO DOZEN
OF THEM!

THIS IS
SO UNFAIR! I
WAS BEATING YOU,
STRANGER! ONE ON
ONE, MAN AGAINST
MAN, POWER VERSUS
POWER, I WAS
WINNING!

BUT NOW,
WITH THESE STONE-
FACED STAR-GAZERS
LOOMING OVERHEAD,
READY TO RISE
AGAINST ME AT
ANY MOMENT, I FEAR
TRIUMPH SHALL
BE SNATCHED FROM
MY HANDS!

I MUST KILL YOU,
DON'T YOU SEE? I
MUST OBLITERATE
ALL THOSE WHO IMPEDE
MY CONQUEST OF THE
UNIVERSE OR ELSE
THE GRANDEUR THAT
WAS EYUNG SHALL
DIE IN DISMAL
DISGRACE.

YOU STAND BETWEEN ME
AND MY GLORIOUS DESTINY,
STRANGER! AND YOU DO NOT
EVEN HAVE THE DECENCY TO
FIGHT FAIRLY!

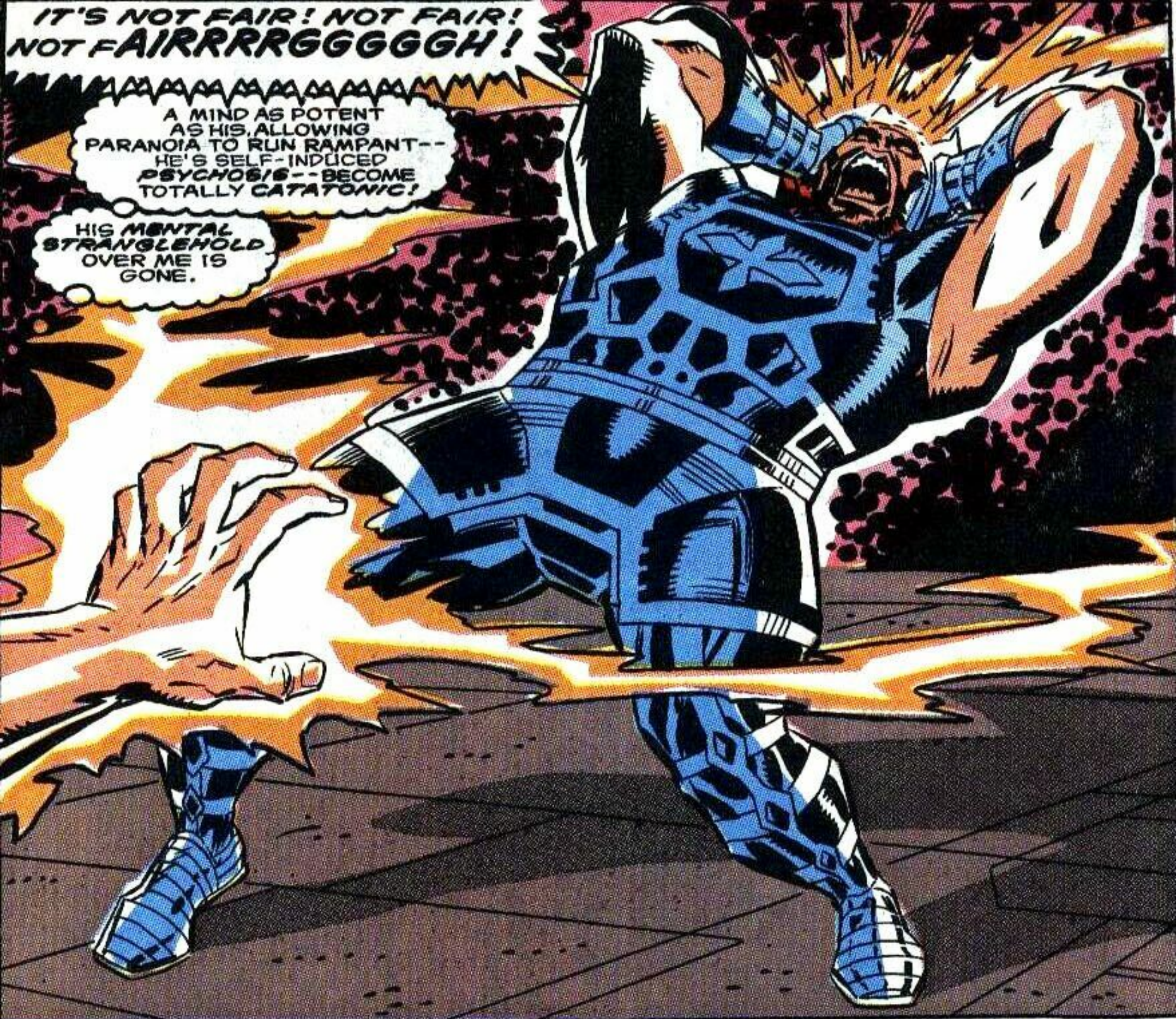
YOU'RE...WRONG.
I DID NOT SUMMON...
THE WATCHERS.

WHERE THERE
ARE MYSTERIES...
YOU SEE
CONSPIRACIES.
YOUR PARANOIA...IS
YOUR UNDOING.

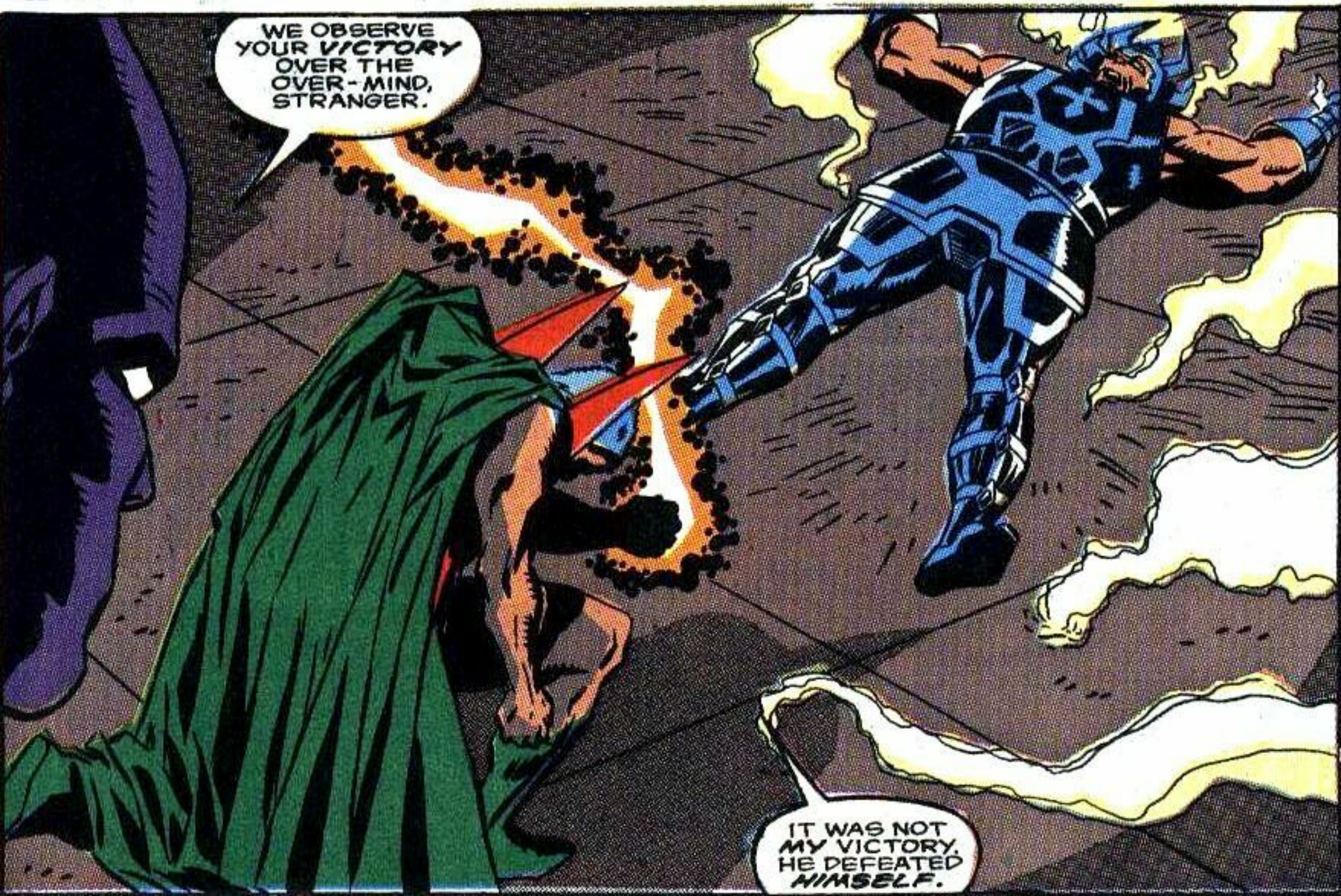
IT'S NOT FAIR! NOT FAIR!
NOT FAIRRRRGGGGGH!

A MIND AS POTENT
AS HIS, ALLOWING
PARANOIA TO RUN RAMPANT--
HE'S SELF-INDUCED
PSYCHOSIS--BECOME
TOTALLY CATATONIC!

HIS MENTAL
STRANGLEHOLD
OVER ME IS
GONE.



WE OBSERVE
YOUR **VICTORY**
OVER THE
OVER-MIND,
STRANGER.



IT WAS NOT
MY VICTORY.
HE DEFEATED
HIMSELF.

SURELY THIS STRUGGLE DID NOT WARRANT **THIS** MANY WITNESSES. WHAT **BRINGS** ALL OF YOU HERE TO MY WORLD?

WE NEED YOUR **HELP**.

WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE AWARE THAT IN RECENT CYCLES A NUMBER OF OUR **KINSMEN** HAVE SUCCEMIBED TO **OBLIVION**.*

MY **HELP**?

* LAST ISSUE AGAIN.

YES... I RETRIEVED THE BODIES OF **TEN** OF YOUR NUMBER. THEY ARE ABOARD MY **LIGHTSHIP** EN ROUTE HERE.

BUT YOU NEED NOT WORRY. ONE OF THE BODIES IS THAT OF THE **INSTIGATOR** OF THE SUICIDE CULT-- **OTMU**, I BELIEVE.

SO WHAT DO YOU NEED ME FOR?

THE CRISIS HAS **NOT** DIMINISHED WITH THE APPARENT INSTIGATOR'S DEMISE.

NO?

SINCE THE UNIVERSE WAS STILL IN ITS **INFANCY**, OUR PEOPLE'S CODE OF ETHICS HAS BEEN TO **OBSERVE**, BUT **NEVER INTERFERE** WITH THAT WHICH WE OBSERVE.

OTMU THE HERETIC ARGUED THAT THE VERY **ACT OF OBSERVING** AFFECTS THAT WHICH WE OBSERVE. THEREFORE TO TRULY FOLLOW OUR MORAL CODE, WE WOULD HAVE TO **STOP OBSERVING**, AND IN ORDER STOP OBSERVING, WE WOULD HAVE TO **CEASE TO EXIST**.

I AM AWARE
OF ALL THAT.

BUT WHAT YOU PERHAPS ARE
UNAWARE IS THAT THE IDEA HAS
BECOME A VIRUS--IT HAS TAKEN
A LIFE ALL ITS OWN.

TO DATE, OVER A BILLION
OF OUR PEOPLE HAVE BEEN
AFFLICTED WITH THIS
INFORMATION VIRUS AND
HAVE ELECTED TO CEASE
LIFE FUNCTIONS RATHER
THAN CONTINUE TO
VIOLATE THE OATH.

WE CANNOT SEEM TO
STOP THE VIRUS'S SPREAD.
WE ARE A TELEPATHIC
PEOPLE. THEREFORE IT HAS
SPREAD ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
AT THE SPEED OF THOUGHT.
VIRTUALLY EVERY MIND
IT ENTERS BECOMES
OBSESSED WITH IT.

WE ARE BEINGS OF SUCH POWER THAT WE
CAN MAKE OUR ERRANT WISHES REALITY. IF
ANY OF US CONTEMPLATES THE NOTION OF NOTHINGNESS
FOR A FRACTION OF AN INSTANT TOO LONG, HE
INADVERTENTLY SUCCUMBS.

I AM SOMEWHAT INCREDULOUS
THAT YOUR PEOPLE DID NOT ARRIVE AT
THIS IDEA LONG AGO. IT IS PATENTLY
OBVIOUS THAT THE OBSERVER
INFLUENCES THE OBSERVED.

CONSIDER: ALTHOUGH
YOU PEOPLE DID NOT DIRECT YOUR
ENERGIES AT EITHER THE OVER-MIND
OR MYSELF, YOU NEVERTHELESS
AFFECTED THE OUTCOME
OF OUR STRUGGLE.

BY ALLOWING YOURSELF TO BE SEEN,
THE OVER-MIND, IN HIS MEGLOMANIA,
ASSUMED YOU WERE HERE TO INTERFERE.
THIS ASSUMPTION DISRUPTED HIS
CONCENTRATION, AND EVENTUALLY
HIS SANITY.

YOUR OBSERVATIONS
DRAMATICALLY ALTERED
THE EVENT YOU SOUGHT
TO OBSERVE.



STOP
IT, STRANGER!
YOU JUST CAUSED
FOUR MORE OF
THESE GUYS TO
THINK
THEMSELVES
TO DEATH!



I BID YOU TO **HOLD YOUR TONGUE** IF IT IS IN SERVICE TO THE OBLIVION VIRUS.

THOUGH I HAVE NEVER HAD ANY **USE** FOR YOUR KIND, I NEVER MEANT YOU'LL. YOU HAVE MY **APOLOGIES**.

NOW WHAT IS IT YOU WISH ME TO **DO**?



I AM **FLATTERED** I'M SO HIGHLY THOUGHT OF, BUT I DO NOT THINK YOU WILL **LIKE** THE ADVICE I HAVE TO GIVE.

ABANDON YOUR OATH. BECOME AN **ACTIVE EXPERIMENTER** LIKE MYSELF.

WE CANNOT.

CANNOT OR WILL NOT?



WE COME TO YOU FOR **ADVICE**...FOR **WISDOM** IN HELPING US STAUNCH THE **ADVANCE** OF THIS DREAD DISEASE.

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN BE OF **HELP**?

WE HAVE MUCH IN **COMMON**, YOU AND OURSELVES. WE BOTH ARE INTERESTED IN **ACCUMULATING KNOWLEDGE** OF THE UNIVERSE AND ITS MYRIAD LIFE FORMS. WHERE WE DIFFER IS THAT WHILE WE **PASSIVELY OBSERVE**, YOU **ACTIVELY ENGAGE** IN **EXPERIMENTS**.

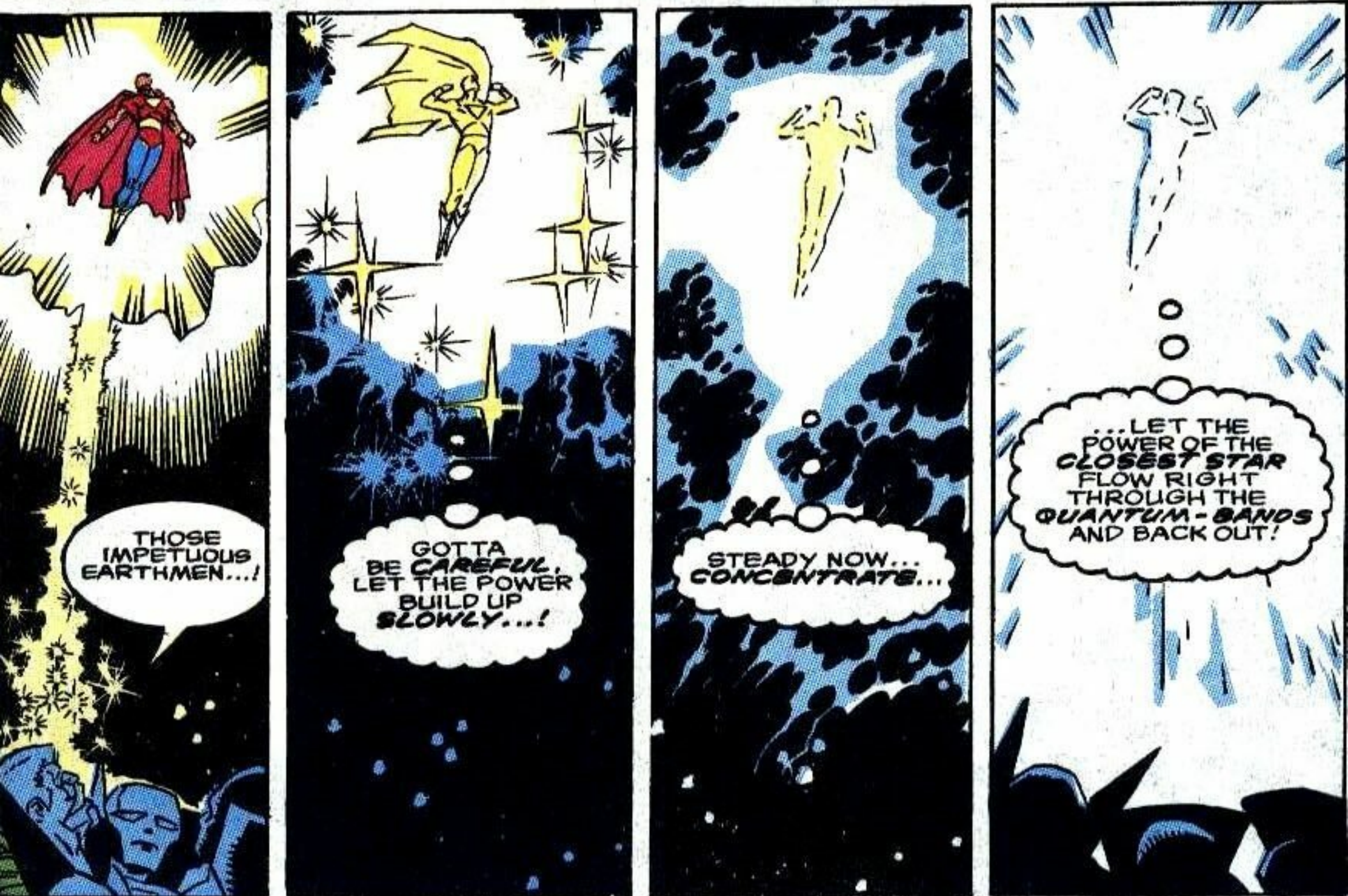
WE COULD THINK OF NO OTHER **ENTITY**, ABSTRACT OR MATERIAL, WHO MIGHT HELP US RESOLVE THE **CONTRADICTIONS** THIS VIRUS POSES TO OUR **ETHICAL SYSTEM** BETTER THAN YOU.



BOTH. HAS IT NEVER OCCURRED TO YOU TO WONDER **WHY** WE WATCH. WE DO NOT **WATCH** BECAUSE OF SOME **OBSESSIVE MONOMANIA** LIKE THE **GLORIS** PURSUE THEIR UNDERTAKINGS.

WE WATCH BECAUSE **SOMEONE** HAS TO **OBSERVE, RECORD, AND CATALOG** THE HISTORY OF **LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE**.

WHY? FOR WHOSE **BENEFIT**?



I'M DOING IT! I'M
ON TOP OF IT ALL!
I'M NOT LETTING
ANY OF IT GET
AWAY FROM ME--!

ALL RIGHT!
NOW I'LL SHOW
THEM THIS ISN'T JUST
ANY RUNNY-NOSED,
WET-BEHIND-THE-EARS
PSEUDO-COSMIC
UPSTART THEY'RE
DEALING WITH
HERE!

I'M QUASAR--
MASTER OF THE
QUANTUM-BANDS!
GUARDIAN OF SON!
PROTECTOR OF THE
WHOLE FLIPPING
UNIVERSE!

AND I'M NOT
GOING TO BE
IGNORED!

THAT STUNT LEFT ME EXHAUSTED...
ALMOST PASSED OUT ON THE WAY
DOWN!

AHEM. IF I HAVE
YOUR ATTENTION,
PLEASE LISTEN
TO WHAT I
HAVE TO SAY.

DEAD OR ALIVE
MAKES NO DIFFERENCE,
DON'T YOU SEE? EVEN YOUR
DEATHS AFFECT THE
UNIVERSE-- AFFECT
THAT WHICH YOU WISH
TO INOBTUSIVELY
OBSERVE!

CASE IN POINT:
THE STRANGER'S SPENT
WHO-KNOWS-HOW-LONG
GATHERING WATCHER CORPSES
TO EXAMINE. WHILE HE WAS DOING
THAT, THE OVER-MIND SNEAKED
IN, WRECKED HIS LAB-WORLD, AND
SET UP AN AMBUSH
THAT NEARLY COST THE STRANGER
HIS LIFE.

NONE OF THAT WOULD
HAVE HAPPENED IF
NOT FOR YOU GUYS
DOING YOURSELVES IN.
AND THAT'S JUST
ONE EXAMPLE.

SO SAY YOU DECIDE NOT TO LEAVE
BEHIND A TROUBLESOME CORPSE,
BUT TOTALLY CONVERT INTO ENERGY
AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH. YOU THINK
THAT WOULDN'T AFFECT SOMEONE OR
SOMETHING SOMEWHERE, TOO?

AND IF ALL OF YOU CASH
IN YOUR CHIPS, THINK OF HOW
THE WHOLE BALANCE OF
POWER IN THE UNIVERSE
WOULD BE AFFECTED!

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS:
THE VERY ACT OF KILLING
YOURSELVES AFFECTS REALITY
AS MUCH AS--IF NOT MORE THAN--
YOUR OBSERVATIONS HAVE.

BUT LOOK, NOBODY'S PERFECT-- NOT EVEN YOU
ALL-SEEING CHROME-DOMES! WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS
SUCH A MONUMENTAL TASK, KEEPING TRACK OF EVERY
IMPORTANT THING THAT HAPPENS ALL OVER CREATION--

-- THAT A LITTLE SUBJECTIVITY
IS BOUND TO CREEPIN. AND YOU
KNOW WHAT? I'LL BET WHOEVER'S
AROUND TO GET YOUR LITTLE
HISTORY BOOK WILL BE SO HAPPY
TO HAVE IT THAT THEY'LL FORGIVE
YOUR TINY LAPSES!



WHAT A TOUGH AUDIENCE. CAN'T TELL HOW THEY TOOK WHAT I--

WHAT YOU HAVE SAID, QUASAR OF EARTH, HAS MERIT.

HUNT ONE OF THE FOUR DEAD WATCHERS IS SITTING UP--!

IF BOTH OUR LIVES AND DEATHS AFFECT THE UNIVERSE, THEN THE LESSER OF THE TWO EVILS IS TO REMAIN ALIVE SO AT LEAST WE CAN GO ABOUT OUR APPOINTED TASK.



I AGREE.

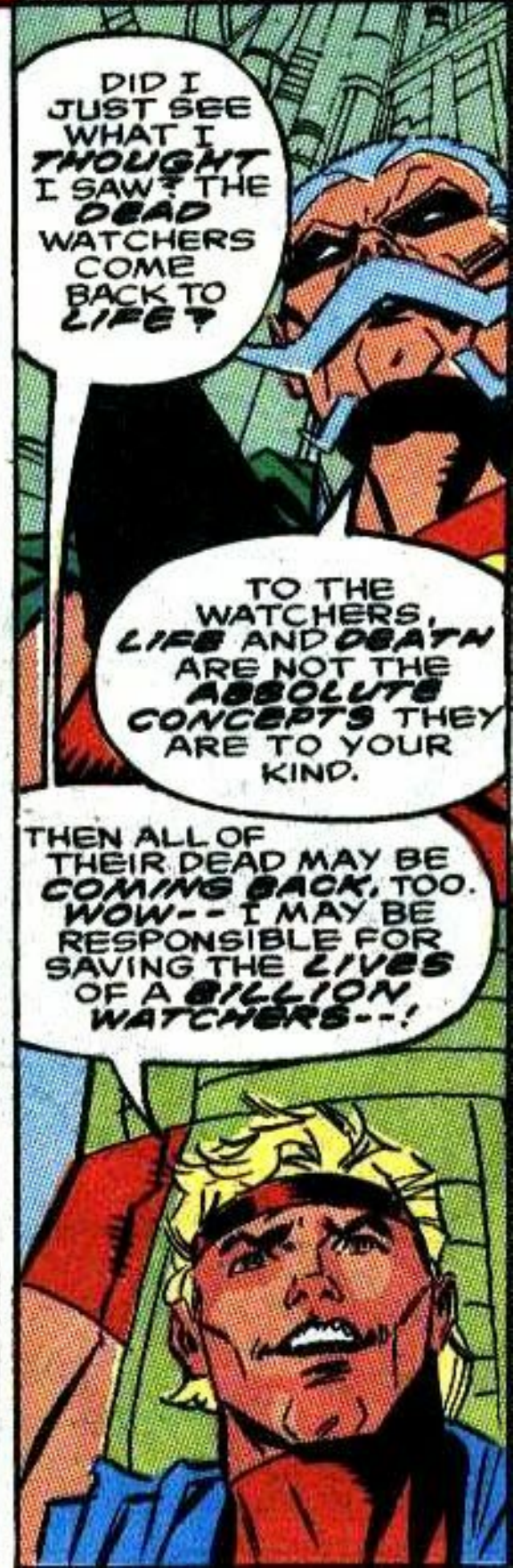
AS DO I.



THE LIFE-AFFIRMING IDEA, NOW KNOWN BY US HERE, WILL BE THOUGHT-SPREAD THROUGHOUT OUR KIND EVEN AS THE OBLIVION PLAGUE WAS SPREAD.

WE CAN GO ON.

YOUR RACE IS WISE BEYOND ITS YEARS, QUASAR.



DID I JUST SEE WHAT I THOUGHT I SAW? THE DEAD WATCHERS COME BACK TO LIFE?

TO THE WATCHERS, LIFE AND DEATH ARE NOT THE ABSOLUTE CONCEPTS THEY ARE TO YOUR KIND.

THEN ALL OF THEIR DEAD MAY BE COMING BACK, TOO. WOW-- I MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAVING THE LIVES OF A BILLION WATCHERS--!

NOW SEE TO YOUR FRIENDS AND GO. I MUST DEAL WITH THE **OVER-MIND**, AND THEN REPAIR THE **DAMAGE** TO MY WORLD-LABORATORY AND RECAPTURE WHAT **SPECIMENS** I CAN.

I WAS GOING TO **ASK** YOU ABOUT THAT. SOME OF YOUR SO-CALLED **SPECIMENS** I ENCOUNTERED LOOKED LIKE THEY WEREN'T BEING TREATED VERY **HUMANELY**.

WANNA **BET**? I'M PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. HAD THEY NOT ALL **ESCAPED**, I MIGHT HAVE SET THEM **FREE**.

THAT IS BECAUSE I AM **NOT HUMAN**-- NOR ARE THEY. YOUR STANDARDS DO NOT **APPLY** HERE.

DON'T **TRIFLE** WITH ME, HUMAN. YOU SAVE A **BILLION LIVES** AND NOW YOU THINK YOU ARE THE **UNIVERSE'S GIFT**.

BUT WHILE EON HAS HAD A **LONG SUCCESSION** OF BEINGS TO "PROTECT THE UNIVERSE," THERE HAS EVER BEEN BUT **ONE STRANGER**. I NEED EXPLAIN MY ACTIONS TO **NO ONE**!

NOW GO!

AAH, GO WAX YOUR **MOUSTACHE**.

HEY, **SQUADRON!**

QUASAR! WHAT IN THE WORLD **HAPPENED**? WHAT WAS THAT **HUGE SOLAR FLARE** THAT--

I'LL EXPLAIN IT **ALL LATER**. RIGHT NOW LET'S JUST FIND THE **SHIP** YOU ALL CAME HERE ON AND FLY IT **BACK TO EARTH!**

LET ME TELL YOU, I REALLY APPRECIATE THE **LIFT BACK...**

... I'M WAY TOO **POOPED** TO MAKE A QUANTUM JUMP.

LEAST WE CAN DO AFTER HOW YOU **RESCUED** US.

IT'S A LONG STORY...

WELL, IT **IS** GONNA TAKE US AT LEAST **SIX HOURS** TO GET BACK TO EARTH...

SO WHAT'S THE SCOOP WITH THAT CIRCLE OF **BALD GUYS**?

DON'T KEEP ME IN **SUSPENSE** ANY LONGER, HY--TELL ME HOW YOUR **SIGHT** WAS RESTORED.

I'VE GOT QUASAR'S FRIEND **MAKKARI** TO THANK. HE TOOK ME TO SEE THIS **TEACHER** OF HIS WHO RETAUGHT ME HOW TO **SEE**.

BUT... **NOW?**

IT SEEMS I'M THE **SAME SUBSPECIES** OF HUMANITY AS **MAKKARI** AND HIS **TEACHER**--AN **ETERNAL**. **MAKKARI** NOTICED THE **RESEMBLANCE** IMMEDIATELY.*

*ISSUE #15.

ON **OUR** EARTH, THEY APPARENTLY ALL **DIED OFF** EXCEPT FOR ME. ON THEIRS, **ETERNALS** ARE STILL **PLENTIFUL**.

AMAZING! WHO'D HAVE EVER THOUGHT YOU'D SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF YOUR **ORIGINS** SO FAR AWAY FROM **HOME**?

LATER...

GAVE SPEC THE **READER'S DIGEST** VERSION OF WHAT WENT ON. ALL I WANT TO DO IS CATCH A COUPLE **Z'S** ON THE **RIDE BACK**.

CAN'T WAIT TO TELL **DAD** AND **SON** WHAT HAPPENED. I'M TEMPTED TO CALL **AHEAD**, BUT I'D MUCH RATHER SEE THEIR REACTIONS IN **PERSON**!

EPILOG:

AHEAD OF THE HYPERSPACE-SKIMMING STARSHIP, IN THE BUILDING WHERE QUASAR MAKES HIS OFFICE ON EARTH, THERE IS A SPECIAL ROOM.

IT IS A FINITE POCKET OF HYPERSPACE WHERE THE EIGHT BILLION YEAR OLD ENTITY WHO IS QUASAR'S COSMIC MENTOR CURRENTLY RESIDES.

UNTIL TODAY, ONLY TWO BEINGS ON EARTH HAVE BEEN INSIDE THIS ROOM-- QUASAR AND HIS FATHER.

NOW THERE IS A THIRD. SHE CALLS HERSELF M.D. STECKLEY AND SHE JOINED THE SECURITY FIRM QUASAR PRESIDES OVER IN HIS CIVILIAN GUISE A MERE MONTH AGO.

SHE SOMEHOW KNEW OF THIS ROOM, AND KNEW WHAT SHE WOULD FIND IN IT. CURIOUSLY, HOWEVER, WHAT SHE FINDS IN IT IS NOT WHAT QUASAR AND HIS FATHER HAVE EVER FOUND...

**CON?
ARE YOU
THERE?**

**MY
NAME
IS--**

**I KNOW
WHO
YOU ARE.**

**COME IN--
I'VE BEEN
EXPECTING
YOU.**

AlIEEEEN!

**THE DOORWAY TO
HYPERSPACE SLIDES
SHUT.**

END.